

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 were pending in this application. Claims 1-16, 36, 39 and 40 have been allowed and claims 19-21, 23, 24, 27, 29, 30, 33-35, 37 and 38¹ have been objected to only as being dependent upon rejected claims. Claims 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31 and 32 have been rejected. Rejected claims 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 19 and 27 have been amended. Claims 1, 19, 27 and 36 are independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 1-16, 36, 39 and 40. These claims have been maintained unchanged, and so are believed to remain allowable at least for the reasons already given.

The Examiner is also thanked for the indication that claims 19-21, 23, 24, 27, 39, 30, 33-35, 37 and 38 would be allowable is suitably rewritten in independent form. These claims have been so amended - claims 19 and 27 are now independent, and so are believed to be allowable. Since the remaining claims all ultimately depend from claims 19 or 27, those claims are likewise allowable.

¹ Although the Office Action states at page 5, last paragraph, that claim 25 would be allowable, this is believed to be a typographical error and it is understood the Examiner meant to identify claim 35, in view of the Office Action Summary sheet's identification of claim 35 as being objectionable and claim 25 as being rejected, and the statement at page 3 of the Office Action that claim 25 stands rejected.

While the body of the Office Action states at page 6 that claims 36-40 are allowable, the Office Action Summary only states claims 36, 39 and 40 are allowable, and objects to claims 37 and 38. Since claims 37 and 38 ultimately depend upon rejected claim 18, it is believed the Office Action Summary sheet is accurate, and the Examiner intended to state these claims are objectionable and would be allowed if suitably rewritten in independent form.

**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claim 17 has have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Appln. No. 2003-053984 to Tanaami et al.

In view of the cancellation of claim 17, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, favorable consideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 18, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaami in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,053,606 to Yamaguchi et al.

Claims 18, 22, 25, 26, 28, 31 and 32 have been cancelled, and so this rejection is moot. Accordingly, favorable consideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

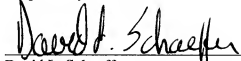
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for allowance and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason, however, the Examiner should deem that this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below to resolve any outstanding issues prior to issuing a further Office Action.

Other than the extension fee authorized in the accompanying Petition for Extension of Time, no fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Prompt and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Schaeffer", is written over a horizontal line.

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